Read the prologue carefully. Pay particular attention to the descriptions of the setting, the climate (not weather) of the environment with the people who live there, and the conflicts established by the first person narrator. One important fact to keep in mind is that the story is told from the point of view of a young pre-teen girl by the name of Reesa McMahon.

1. Explain the cultural mix that was in this part of Florida during this time period. Don’t just list what the author says, but analyze WHY it would be a problem to have this mix together. If you need to do quick research on it, then do so!
2. What is the "social equivalent of a Molotov Cocktail"? (Hint: to understand this analogy, you need to know what a Molotov Cocktail is, so look it up!)
3. Explain the challenges the reader encounters when the narrator is a young girl, especially with the environment described in the prologue? Explain how she may struggle with the events going on in her life and why conveying those events and emotions may cause difficulty for the reader.
4. The prologue makes many geographic and historic references. Make a list of what you need to know more about. (This list will eventually go on a message board for everyone to discuss and use throughout the reading.) Look up information on the one you know the least about and explain what new knowledge you have.
5. Look at the paragraph that talks about her family’s disagreement. Record the names of the people mentioned and what they believe. Discuss how that impacts the way they may handle the events of this novel.
6. After reading the summary below, make a list of the characters’ names and who they are, as much as you can decipher. (This list will eventually go on a message board for everyone to add to and use throughout the reading.)

*One orange-blossom-scented night in 1951, Reesa McMahon woke to find her world shattered by violence and hatred. Her friend and mentor, nineteen-year-old Marvin Cully, had been brutally murdered by the local Klan. The killing of this innocent black man who worked in the McMahons’ orange grove will forever*

*change Reesa’s life and the life of everyone in the genteel town of Mayflower, Florida, pitting neighbor against neighbor in a conflict that would divide the nation.*

*Against this backdrop, Reesa draws strength from her indomitable grandmother “Doto”, who drove hell-bent down from Chicago in her new blue DeSoto… Warren, her slow-to-anger Yankee father, who never quite fit in to the closed society of Good Ol’ Boy citrus growers… Miss Maybelle Mason, the elderly postmistress who knew a rattlesnake when she saw one – and the bite of heartbreak as well – and Luther and Armetta and the black community of Mayflower. Through Reesa’s painful search for meaning, we experience the unforgettable rites of passage of a young girl’s and of a small town’s shattering confrontation with racial prejudice, injustice, and – ultimately - truth.*

1. In the summary above and in the prologue itself, what terms (slang or otherwise) do you need clarified? List them and explain what is confusing to you.